The International Disability Alliance (IDA) is seeking a

**Consultant to support IDA’s engagement with the ATscale, the Global Partnership for Assistive Technology**

# **Terms of Reference**

**About the International Disability Alliance (IDA)**

We are an alliance of networks, bringing together over 1,100 organisations of persons with disabilities and their families from across eight global and six regional networks. Together we [promote the rights of persons with disabilities](http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/node/80) across the United Nations' efforts to advance human rights and sustainable development. We [support organisations of persons with disabilities](http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/node/52) to hold their governments to account and advocate for change locally, nationally and internationally. The cornerstone of our work is the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/node/165) (UN CRPD).

We promote the effective and full implementation of the UN CRPD, and compliance by governments and the UN System, through the active and coordinated involvement of representative organisations of persons with disabilities at the national, regional and international levels. The 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals are also integral to IDA's work to promote inclusive, sustainable development in line with the UN CRPD. With [member organisations](http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org/node/30) around the world, IDA represents the estimated one billion people worldwide living with disabilities. This is the world’s largest – and most frequently overlooked – marginalised group. IDA, with its unique composition as a network of the foremost international disability rights organisations, is the most authoritative representation of persons with disabilities on the global level, and acknowledged as such by the United Nations system both in New York and Geneva. More information is available on [www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org](http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org)

**About ATscale, the Global Partnership for Assistive Technology**

Assistive technology (AT) is an umbrella term covering the systems and services related to the delivery of assistive products and services. Today, over one billion people need an assistive technology (AT), yet over 900 million people (90%) do not have access to the wheelchairs, eyeglasses, hearing aids, prosthetics, and other life changing AT they need. By 2050, over two billion people will need some form of AT in order to go to school, get a job, or play a full role in their families or communities

Lack of access to AT means that individuals and their families bear significant and often life-threatening consequences, including:

* Isolation and exclusion from education, work, family, and community life
* Poorer health outcomes including premature death, deteriorating mental health, chronic health conditions, and other secondary health complications
* Increased costs and lower incomes, leading to higher risks of poverty and unrealised economic potential from the individual to the country level

To accelerate access to AT, ATscale, the Global Partnership for Assistive Technology, was formally launched at the Global Disability Summit on July 24, 2018.  The partnership aims to reach 500 million people by 2030 with the life-changing assistive technology that they need. Applying lessons-learned from other areas of global health and development, ATscale was established with the recognition that to influence the complex systems for AT access, a broad set of stakeholders is needed to invest in and coordinate a multi-faceted, systematic approach spanning market shaping, capacity development, and political prioritisation, with a focus on low-and middle-income countries. ATscale’s strategy development process has included a wide range of discussions with those in the AT community, engagement with potential new partners, and in-depth technical analysis. This process has led to the proposed twin-track approach that will seek to (1) develop an enabling environment across all AT on global, regional, and national levels and (2) identify targeted, catalytic interventions to address both supply and demand barriers to access for priority products.

ATscale is currently governed by a Forming Committeee, which oversees ATscale’s development, guided by an internal Statement of Principles collectively developed by the partner organisations. The Forming Committee advises on strategy, coordinates stakeholders, mobilises resources, measures and evaluates progress, identifies and considers potential interventions and investments, and will shepherd ATscale to its permanent structure. ATscale has a small staff facilitating its daily operations including a Director who reports to the Forming Committee.

The current Forming Committee includes eleven organisations:

* United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
* UK Department for International Development (DFID)
* Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)
* World Health Organization (WHO)
* UNICEF
* Office of the UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Financing the Health Millennium Development Goals and for Malaria (UNSEO)
* Government of Kenya (GoK)
* China Disabled Persons’ Federation (CDPF)
* Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI)
* Global Disability Innovation Hub (GDI)
* International Disability Alliance (IDA)

More information available at: <https://atscale2030.org/>.

**Services required**

The International Disability Alliance is eager to ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations are appropriately recognized and respected and in the work of the Global Partnership. IDA seeks interested experts for the following activities:

1. **Attending meetings and calls of the Forming Committee**

The Forming Committee meets virtually once a month, and in-person roughly twice a year for strategy and operations reviews.

* The consultant will be expected to attend these calls and intervene on behalf of the International Disability Alliance.

The consultant will be expected to have a briefing and debriefing call with the IDA Executive Director and/or IDA Executive Committee members that volunteered to take part in the work of the Forming Committee, before and after each of the Forming Committee calls.

Deliverables:

To provide a brief report after each Forming Committee call.

1. **Review documentations, reports, strategies and any other documents related to ATscale and provide feedback from a CRPD perspective, as well as to ensure the perspectives and priorities of IDA members are incorporated.**

From time to time, the Forming Committee, its working groups, and/or the ATscale Director may prepare certain documents or provide points for decision-making:

* The consultant will be expected to review any documentation and share with the Executive Director his/her comments. The consultant is expected to provide recommendations and concrete language to improve the content of these documents, in line with the CRPD and human rights-based approach, as well as to protect the interest of IDA members
* If needed, the consultant shall conduct informal or formal consultation with IDA governance, secretariat or membership to be able to contribute to different documents
* If needed, the consultant shall run assistive device specific consultation with impairment specific group of persons with disabilities represented by an IDA global member
* The consultant is expected to provide feedback/communicate the outputs of consultation back to the ATscale Director and/or ATscale Forming Committee

Deliverables:

To provide a brief report on periodical basis for the Executive Director and the executive committee on the progress of the work of the ATscale, especially in terms of the knowledge generation and production of different documents. Deliverables will also include feedback on documents, and any brief analysis. In case of consultations being implemented, the consultant shall produce the analysis and final report of the consultation.

1. **Participate in working groups**

During the interim state, the Forming Committee is actively pursuing a number of activities that will enable ATscale to develop and scale in the steady state. As needed, the Forming Committee develops topic-specific “working groups” to advance this work. Working groups advance tactical day-to-day activities and tasks and present recommendations to the Forming Committee.

* The consultant will be expected to participate in these working groups, at the discretion of the IDA Executive Director
* The consultant will be expected to have a briefing and debriefing call with the IDA Executive Director and/or members of the IDA Executive committee, before and after any activity related to the working groups.

Deliverables:

To prepare brief periodic reports (frequency to be agreed with the Executive Director) for the IDA Executive Director and/or members of the IDA Executive committee, providing updates on progress of work made in the working groups.

1. **Other tasks**
* As needed, coordinate accessible online consultation of IDA members

**Timeframe**

It is expected that the above activities and related deliverables will start on hire and be completed by January 2020. The selected service provider will work closely with the IDA Executive Director, and periodically with members of IDA’s Executive Committee (comprised of Board members). Our Secretariat and Board is based around the world, so flexibility to work across different time zones for required calls is indispensable.

IDA may also mobilize some of its members as interface on different aspects of the work, including accessibility features.

The time commitment to cover this engagement is expected to incorporate 10 days of work, with a possible extension of the time, as needed.

**Profile sought**

Consultants should have:

* An advanced degree in economics, social policy, disability policy, international development, or equivalent in a relevant field
* Expertise in one or more of the following fields: disability statistics, disability-inclusive policy work, civil society participation, assistive technologies.
* Very good understanding of the CRPD and human rights-based approach
* Commitment to a rights-based approach to disability, knowledge of the diversity of the disability movement’s constituencies
* Experience of engagement and representation in multi-stakeholder coordination committees, ability to appreciate stakes and opportunities and to engage with diplomacy
* Strong communication skills

**How to respond**

Interested consultant/ teams should send:

* A letter including (1) a description of the consultant’s interest in and understanding of the objectives of the proposed work, (2) specific added value that the consultant(s) can bring to this work, (3) relevant information demonstrating how the consultant(s) meet the profile sought.
* A quote/ financial proposal that indicates a cost of consultancy per day. Please remain within the 10-day consultancy period.

Please send the required information to consultancy@ida-secretariat.org no later than 8 September 2019 with subject Title “ATscale Consultancy”.